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# TheCurrent

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# Harlem Shake for Shark Spirit



Katrina Finns, Aadil Vora and Sarah Rodriguez in their costumes at NSU's Harlem Shake video shoot.

By: Aadil Vora

On Feb. 20, around 160 NSU students — along with Razor the Shark — joined the “Harlem Shake” craze with their own rendition of the dance at the men’s basketball game in the Don Taft University Center Arena.

“The Harlem Shake” seems to be 2013’s response to “Gangnam Style” and has been popularized by people uploading their own versions of the dance. It has a simple formula: a group of participants perform ridiculous dance moves to the electronic music of American DJ and producer, Baauer.

NSU’s video is also now on YouTube and starts with the NSU Sharkettes dancing to Will.I.Am’s “Scream and Shout”. The music suddenly switches to “The Harlem Shake”, which Razor dances to alone in the stands. Once the music drops its first big beat, the entire crowd dances energetically. As of Feb. 24, the video has had over 6,600 views.

The Student Events and

Activities Board, known as SEA Board, planned the event and scheduled the video shoot for 8 p.m., during halftime, in hopes that many residential and commuter students would attend.

At halftime, students came to the Don Taft University Center basketball courts, many carrying wacky props — such as plastic shark fins, enlarged photos and Halloween decorations. Many participants also wore quirky clothing — such as suspenders, hats and costumes.

Sarah Rodriguez, a freshman biology student who arrived wearing a tutu and sunglasses with a plastic mustaches attached, said, “I thought ‘The Harlem Shake’ was a simple and inventive way to bring the school together and bring the commuters, like me, back to campus after-hours.”

Raven Sepulveda, sophomore chemistry major said, “It was so much fun. It was something new to get people involved with our basketball team.”

SEE HARLEM 2

# NSU welcomes former U.S. congressmen



The former congressmen who visited NSU on Feb. 18.

COURTESY OF C. ALFONSO

By: Camila Alfonso

NSU welcomed two former members of the U.S. House of Representatives, John Glen Browder of Alabama and Tom Ewing of Illinois on Feb. 18. The two men, both Republicans, spoke to the NSU community about their journey to

public office in the Arena at the Don Taft University Center.

Browder and Ewing attended on behalf of the national Congress to Campus Program, which aims to attract youth to leadership positions in public service and provides students the opportunity to interact

with former Congress members.

Nelson Bass, political science instructor in the Division of Humanities at the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences, was the event’s moderator and encouraged his students to attend, especially since

SEE CONGRESS 2

# Distinguished Lecturer speaks on education and discrimination

By: Faren Rajkumar & Sophie Baril

Lillian Lincoln Lambert, the first African-American woman to earn an MBA degree from Harvard Business School, addressed NSU students, faculty and staff on Feb. 21, at 10:30 a.m.

Her visit was part of the H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship’s Distinguished Lecture Series.

Lambert spoke to a crowd in the Carl DeSantis Building’s Grand Room about the struggles she faced growing up in the segregated South and discussed how she defied incredible odds to become a successful business woman.

After graduating high school, Lambert left her hometown of Ballsville, Virginia — a small farming community located fifty miles west of Richmond — for New York City, where she worked as a maid. She said



Lillian Lambert spoke to NSU students, faculty and staff on Feb. 21.

she made many mistakes there and took a long time to adjust to the fast pace of the city.

“The city was not ready for me,” she said.

Lambert later earned a bachelor’s degree in marketing from Howard University, a historically black university in Washington, D.C.

SEE LAMBERT 2



## CONGRESS from 1

he is teaching a course on Congress this semester.

Nadim Visram, sophomore political science major and Bass's student, said he learned a lot about Congress from the guest speakers.

"I realized what they went through on a day-to-day basis or on an atypical congressional session," Visram said. "They discussed how they voted or what they saw and what type of instances had an effect on how they live day-to-day as a congressional member."

Kelsey Obringer, sophomore political science major, said "I thought it was a unique insight on politics that we don't usually get the opportunity to experience. It made me realize that anyone determined enough can be in office."

Another former U.S. Congressman, Lawrence Smith of Florida, also attended the event and

helped plan it.

"It's very important that you all understand that there are a lot of plain, ordinary American people who are serving, did serve, have served, and will serve in the Congress of the United States," Smith said. "You get a skewed understanding, sometimes, from reading papers, listening to the radio or watching television. They are all mostly average folks, who are there to try and help make people's lives better, keep the democracy alive and the country safe."

Linea Cutter, sophomore history and political science major, said, "They came from very different backgrounds, one being a professor and the other a lawyer, which I thought helped to give two diverse perspectives of how their professional backgrounds helped them in their congressional duties."

Browder said, "I know there are a lot of you who think you might

want to get involved, but you say 'someone like me, I could never get into the U.S. Congress or get elected to the county commission'. Each one of us, the three of us, has his own compelling story about where he came from and how he got here."

Browder grew up in a poor community. His parents had a third grade and second grade education. His father was in jail and died in a jailhouse fire when Browder was a year old. Browder was not only the first person in his family to graduate from college, but also the first person in his family — at least that he knows of — to graduate from high school.

"You don't have to be born with a silver spoon in your mouth to make it in this country," he said. "No matter what your disadvantages are, you have the opportunity and there are opportunities for you to participate in the American democracy."

## HARLEM from 1

Peter Kwapis, sophomore biology major and resident advisor, said "The Harlem Shake' gave me a chance to bring my residents out and get excited about something."

Danielle McCalla, a sophomore communication studies major and SEA Board's entertainment chair, said, "I saw the videos online and thought it would be a great idea to get NSU students pumped by making a 'Harlem Shake' video. The aim was to get more school-wide support of the basketball team and general spirit."

While most Harlem Shakers do a repetitive and comedic dance move to the beat of the song, some have performed it as a ballet or Indian folk dance. Already, 40,000 unique Harlem Shake videos have been uploaded to YouTube.

Some of YouTube's most viewed renditions are the University of Georgia swimmers jamming to it underwater, office workers performing it in their cubicles, soldiers marching to it in the snow and grandmothers dancing to it in a Beijing park.

Shannon Booker, assistant director of student activities, felt the NSU rendition was a success because the shoot had a great turnout and promoted student activities at NSU.

"The dance reached out to potential students and gave our current students the opportunity to have a good time," Booker said.

However, some students were disappointed, as they hoped that the event would bring many students out to the basketball game. The majority

of dance participants arrived to the courts just before halftime and left soon after the filming.

Kristel Tiwari, sophomore finance major said, "People only showed up at halftime to do the video. The purpose was not, fulfilled because when the dance was over, everyone left the game."

McCalla feels that NSU still has some work to do in getting more students — commuter and residential — involved. She hopes that future SEA Board events will help increase Shark Pride and maybe even show prospective students that NSU has far more to offer than just academics.

To see the video online, visit YouTube and search for "novauniversity".

## LAMBERT from 1

She is now passionate about education, saying "If you get it in your head, no one can take it out. I went from growing up in a town of 200 to living in New York City, where I was working in buildings that had that many people in them," she recounted. "The opportunities were endless, but it was hard to make enough money."

With encouragement from a Howard professor, Lambert decided to apply to Harvard.

"Harvard rejected my initial application and I thought, 'the nerve of them!' So, I re-took the GMAT and applied again, and I got in."

She became one of six black

students and one of 18 females in Harvard's 1969 class of 800. She asked the dean about the low attendance of black students, and she said that he replied, "We don't know where to find them."

The next year, thanks in large part to Lambert's recruitment efforts — with help from her fellow classmates, 27 black students enrolled in the school. Lambert also helped create an African-American student union.

Still, the path to earn an MBA wasn't an easy one, as Lambert had to actively fight against both racial and sexual discrimination.

"There was always an undercurrent of racism, but then again, people thought women shouldn't be there — much less black women. It was there; I knew it was there, I dealt with it," said Lambert, "The biggest lesson I learned was to not let society define you."

The next Distinguished Lecture Series event is on March 21 at 10:30 a.m. in the Carl DeSantis Building's Grand Room when businessman, author and entrepreneur Raul Pupo presents a lecture entitled "The Correlation between Service Management and Profitability".

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Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33314-7796

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Phone: (954) 262-8461  
Fax: (954) 262-8456  
[thecurrentad@nova.edu](mailto:thecurrentad@nova.edu)

Mnena Iyorpoo	Editor-in-Chief	<a href="mailto:nsunews@nova.edu">nsunews@nova.edu</a>
Jodi Tandet	Copy Editor	<a href="mailto:nsunews@nova.edu">nsunews@nova.edu</a>
Debbie Mejia	News Editor	<a href="mailto:thecurrentnews@nova.edu">thecurrentnews@nova.edu</a>
Faren Rajkumar	News Editor	<a href="mailto:thecurrentnews@nova.edu">thecurrentnews@nova.edu</a>
Sally Regueiro	Features Editor	<a href="mailto:thecurrentfeatures@nova.edu">thecurrentfeatures@nova.edu</a>
Aadil Vora	Arts & Entertainment Editor	<a href="mailto:thecurrenta&amp;e@nova.edu">thecurrenta&amp;e@nova.edu</a>
Christopher Hoffman	Sports Editor	<a href="mailto:sportseditor@nova.edu">sportseditor@nova.edu</a>
Andre Jensen	Opinions Editor	<a href="mailto:nsunews@nova.edu">nsunews@nova.edu</a>
Sadé Glanville	Chief of Visual Design	<a href="mailto:thecurrentad@nova.edu">thecurrentad@nova.edu</a>
Maria Yunez	Visual Design Assistant	<a href="mailto:thecurrentad@nova.edu">thecurrentad@nova.edu</a>
Open	Business Manager	<a href="mailto:thecurrentad@nova.edu">thecurrentad@nova.edu</a>
Tina Sears	Distribution Manager	<a href="mailto:thecurrentad@nova.edu">thecurrentad@nova.edu</a>
Camila Alfonso	Writer	<a href="mailto:nsunews@nova.edu">nsunews@nova.edu</a>
Louise Laurent	Writer	<a href="mailto:nsunews@nova.edu">nsunews@nova.edu</a>
Alex Weiss	Writer	<a href="mailto:nsunews@nova.edu">nsunews@nova.edu</a>
Josh Streimer	Writer	<a href="mailto:nsunews@nova.edu">nsunews@nova.edu</a>
Joe Cirino	Writer	<a href="mailto:nsunews@nova.edu">nsunews@nova.edu</a>
Megan Fitzgerald	Faculty Adviser	<a href="mailto:mf821@nova.edu">mf821@nova.edu</a>
Eddie Jitraphai	Adviser	<a href="mailto:jitraph@nova.edu">jitraph@nova.edu</a>
Michelle Manley	Adviser	<a href="mailto:mmichell@nova.edu">mmichell@nova.edu</a>

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# Best-selling author comes to NSU

By: **Debbie Mejia**

NSU will host a free speaker and book-signing event with Rip Esselstyn — former professional athlete, firefighter and author of the New York Times best-selling book “The Engine 2 Diet” — in the Don Taft University Center’s Performing and Visual Arts Theater on Feb. 28 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The event is sponsored by Whole Foods Market in Plantation and is open to the public.

Marcela Sandigo, associate director of campus recreation at NSU’s Recreational Complex, feels that it is important for young college students, as well as faculty and staff, to constantly work on maintaining good health — the topic of Esselstyn’s speech. She said that college is the best time to instill healthy habits in students, which could benefit them for their rest of their lives.

“As employees [and] students at NSU, we are all lucky [to] have so many resources to help us take care of our health and wellbeing,” Sandigo said. “We have 24 hours in our day. It



Rip Esselstyn will discuss his book Engine 2 Diet, focused on plant-strong diets at NSU on Feb. 28.

only takes 30-60 minutes of exercise to see health benefits. Taking the time to take care of our bodies should really be priority; our minds will be able to function better if we take care of physical well-being. We only have one body, and we need to take care of it.”

Esselstyn’s 2009 book “The Engine 2 Diet” explains the benefits of a plant-powered diet based on the consumption of fruits, vegetables,

whole grains, seeds and little-to-no dairy. He advises readers to cut out meats, fats, and oils and provides over 120 recipes.

The book’s title comes from Esselstyn’s former work as a firefighter. In 2003, while serving with Engine 2 of the Austin Fire Department in Texas, he learned that his fellow firefighters were not exactly in the best health. Many were overweight and/or had

dangerously high cholesterol levels. But after all the firefighters of Engine 2 followed Esselstyn’s diet program, they each lost weight, lowered their cholesterol, and improved their overall health.

Esselstyn eventually retired from firefighting in order to focus on becoming an advocate for plant-based nutrition. His book was endorsed by Chicago mayor Rahm Emanuel and was discussed in the 2011 documentary film “Forks Over Knives.” Esselstyn later starred in the follow-up documentary, “Forks Over Knives Presents: The Engine 2 Kitchen Rescue.”

He has also been featured on “The Today Show”, “Dr. Oz”, the Wall Street Journal, the Miami New Times, Supermarket News and over 25 radio stations, among other media outlets.

Whole Foods Market of Plantation will provide free snacks at the event, on a first come-first-serve basis. For more information on Esselstyn and his diet program, visit [engine2diet.com](http://engine2diet.com).

# Internship and Job Fair

By: **Faren Rajkumar**

The Office of Career Development held its annual Internship and Job Fair, which was presented as a chance for NSU students to apply the skills they’ve learned in the classroom to the real world, on Feb. 19 on the second floor of the Don Taft University center. Students sought job and internship opportunities, as well as a chance to network, but many said that they left disappointed, as they felt that the event did not meet their expectations.

Approximately 400 students of a variety of majors attended the fair, which had about 50 companies and organizations in attendance. Students were given packets — or “table guides” — to assist them in navigating the fair, which also specified each company’s hiring requirements and available positions.

Many students, like Felice Shekar — who is earning her master’s in conflict analysis and resolution, were eager for the opportunity to network, practice their interview skills and meet potential employers. She liked that prior to the event, the Office of Career Development provided an online list of the businesses registered for the fair, but said that several of the employers she was most eager to speak to did not show up or weren’t hiring.

“While waiting to speak to a potential employer, I overheard an employer in the next booth say to his colleague ‘We’re really not here to hire anyone, we just want to see who is out there.’” said Shekar. “That made me wonder about the motives of some of the companies that came to the job fair.”

Many students, like Shekar, said that they were displeased, as they felt that the fair did not cater to their needs. Junior finance major Kester Mark was pleased with the internship opportunities presented — but was

not without complaint.

“I expected more of a focus on the business program, he said. “But I thought there was a good variety of internships and I was actually more interested in internships than a job.”

Students complained that out of all of the employers present, only one — Medical Optics — was interested in hiring biology majors.

Diane Klein, Assistant Director of Employer Relations and Internships, said, “We rarely have employers who are strictly seeking biology majors, because we like to show biology students that even if they are studying science, they don’t necessarily have to go into a lab or hospital setting.”

Many of the employers, according to Klein, were open to speaking to students of all majors, regardless of their major or degree.

“Bridgestone and Target, for example, were actively speaking to biology and psychology majors,” said Klein.

Meanwhile, other companies and organizations would only consider candidates who have already earned their degrees.

“Some companies cannot hire anyone other than individuals with degrees,” said Shari Saperstein, Director of Career Development. “That’s why during our screening process, we ask employers for descriptions of the students they are seeking, as well as the number of open positions they are looking to fill.”

According to Saperstien, one of the Office of Career Development’s requirements for employers is that they have a minimum of 3 to 5 open internships, full-time or part-time positions.

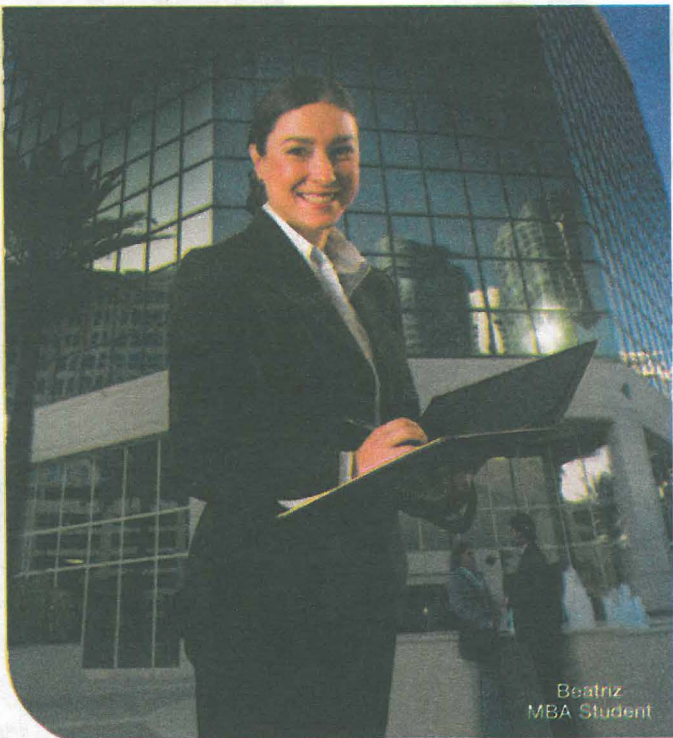
“I am surprised to hear that some of the employers present were not hiring or recruiting interns,” said Saperstein. “I would have really

appreciated if students had brought that to my attention during the fair, because the point of the work that we do is to cultivate relationships with employers for students.”

Klein hopes that future fairs will be met with complete satisfaction, as

she considers it an endeavor that is constantly improving.

“We want it to keep growing, and eventually increase the number of businesses to 80 tables,” said Klein. This way, the fair will appeal to everyone.”



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## News Briefs

### 2020 Legacy Scholars Program

The 2020 Legacy Scholars Program, which encourages students to donate to student organizations, will continue Feb. 25 to March 31. For every dollar that an organization raises at or above \$250, the university will match the amount, up to a maximum of \$2,500. A scholarship will then be awarded to one member of each participating group, as selected by an independent scholarship selection committee. For more information, visit [nova.edu/safspezialevents/legacy/index.html](http://nova.edu/safspezialevents/legacy/index.html) or contact the Office of Special Events and Projects at 954-262-7274.

### Walk to Cure ALS

On March 2, the ALS Association Florida Chapter will hold the South Florida “Walk to Defeat ALS” at Topeekeegee Yugnee Park in Hollywood. Registration will open at 8:30 a.m. and the walk will begin at 10 a.m. The ALS Association is a nationwide network of local chapters that invest in research toward a cure for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis —also known as Lou Gehrig’s Disease. Proceeds raised will support patient care and comfort, as well as research. Interested participants can call 888-257-1717, ext. 126, or register online at [WalktoDefeatALS.org](http://WalktoDefeatALS.org).

### NSU Tampa to host Open House

NSU will host an Open House on Feb. 28 at 6 p.m. at its Tampa Student Educational Center. The Open House, which is free and open to the public, will provide information about the various health, education, business and psychology programs NSU Tampa offers. Admissions counselors will be on hand to answer questions regarding scholarships, grants, financial aid, admission requirements and deadlines. NSU’s Tampa Student Educational Center is located at 3632 Queen Palm Drive in Tampa. For additional information or directions, call 813-574-5200 or e-mail [nsu-tampa@nova.edu](mailto:nsu-tampa@nova.edu). To RSVP, visit [nova.edu/sec/tampa/index.html](http://nova.edu/sec/tampa/index.html).

### Diversity Dialogues series presents talk on sexism

Debra Nixon, assistant professor of marriage and family therapy at the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences, will facilitate the next Diversity Dialogue, “Sexism and the Well Meaning Man”, on March 5 from noon to 1 p.m. The series, which takes place on the first Tuesday of every month in the President’s Dining Room in the The William and Norma Horvitz Administration Building, invites NSU students, faculty and staff to bring their lunch and enjoy a facilitated discussion.



# Diary of... a stand-up comedian

By: Alex Weiss

Alex Weiss is a senior music major and theatre minor. Besides being a standup comic, Alex also plays the drums in NSU's instrumental ensemble. In his spare time, he enjoys writing music and hanging out with friends.

What is the best part about being a comedian? Most people assume it's making people laugh or receiving free drinks. While both of those things are definitely great, I still find this to be a hard question to answer. But I'm going to try.

As I sit by my computer, with Mumford & Sons playing in the background, I can't help but think about my career so far as a comic. I guess it all started 22 years ago — you know, when I was born. I was introduced to comedy at a very young age. I remember sitting in the delivery room and the nurse was doing a stand-up routine for the entire room of newborns. Believe it or not, she was the one to come up with the whole "What's the deal with airline food?" joke. I think she was pretty lonely.

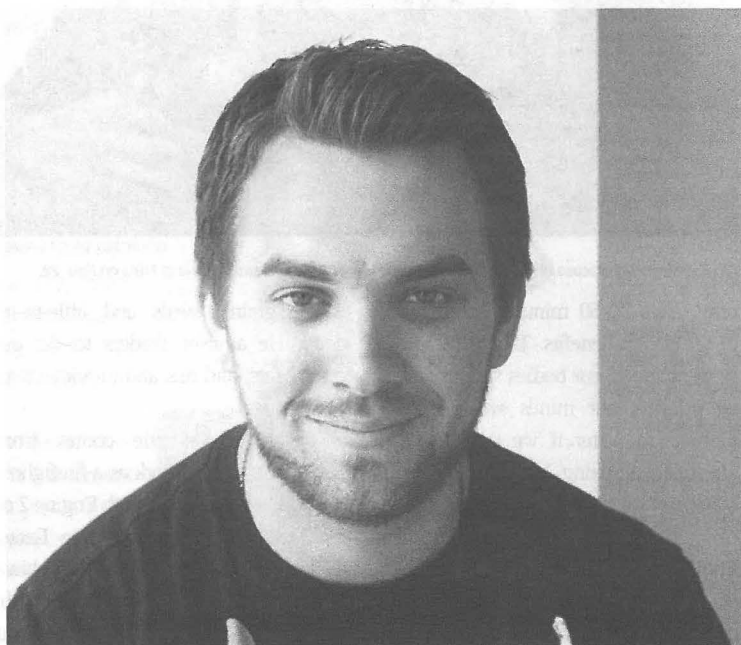
But I digress. When I was growing up, my parents watched

reruns of "Seinfeld" like the show was going out of style — which, to this day, it still hasn't. They even memorized every line and acted out every scene. So, needless to say, I never got to watch "Sesame Street". That would explain a lot.

As I grew older, so did my taste in comedy. I began listening to a lot of Louis C.K., Dave Attell and Dane Cook — when he was funny. I can honestly say that, when I was 12, I never expected to become a comedian; I didn't think I was that funny.

I went to my first comedy show when I was 15 and saw Dane Cook at the South Beach Comedy Festival. I remember the first thing I thought after seeing him live was "I really need to start working out." Around this time, a few of my close friends began doing stand-up at small open mic nights around town. I would always go out to support them but I never performed.

I didn't even get on stage until I was 20 years old. I was so ready for my first time on stage. It was at a small club called the Funky Buddha Lounge. I wrote tons of great jokes that I knew were going to kill. Everyone was going to love it.



Alex Weiss, making people smile one joke at a time.

I was so prepared. So, I got on stage and ... it was terrible. My jokes bombed. Everything I thought was funny was not.

This was a wake-up call for me. I thought, "You know, maybe this isn't for me." Despite all of these feelings, I went back with some new jokes week-after-week until people started laughing. I would even test jokes out on all

of my friends, but often their reply would be "Yeah, that's funny." For those who aren't aware, "Yeah, that's funny" to a comic is like a guy asking his girlfriend "Are you OK?" and she replies, "I'm fine."

In November 2011, I was given one of the greatest opportunities a comic could ever imagine. I was given the chance to open for one of the biggest names in comedy,

Kevin Hart. Not only was I opening for him, but I was also performing in front of 3,500 people. It was an incredibly terrifying experience but also one that I will never forget. That show opened up a lot of doors for me as a comedian. I was booking pretty consistent gigs after that and doing what I loved. This still remains true today.

I have to give credit to my friends and family. I wouldn't be anywhere without all of their support. I had no idea I would be able to do anything like this and they pushed me constantly to step outside of my comfort zone.

So, what's the best part about being a comedian? It's the people I've surrounded myself with and the experiences I've had.

Well, that's the end of my story and I know what you're all thinking: "Yeah, that's funny." But seriously, you never know the outcome of something unless you try. The worst thing that can happen is that you fail ... and even that isn't so bad because you can usually write a joke about it.

## 18,240 Pieces

By: Aadil Vora

Nothing brings people of various backgrounds, races, ages, genders and personalities together like a huge, long-term project. Projects that culminate in a single visionary goal tend to unite different voices, because team members focus more on the end product than on their individual differences.

NSU fraternities and sororities are currently working on a unique community service project — completing a 18, 240-piece puzzle to be donated to Joe DiMaggio's Children's Hospital in Hollywood, Fla.

The project started earlier this semester after Mickle Men-

tz, first-year graduate student in leadership and a brother of the Kappa Sigma Fraternity, asked a group of his close friends to chip in to purchase the \$140 puzzle — which is the world's third largest commercially available puzzle.

Mentz is known among his fraternity brothers for constantly working on puzzles, and his interest inspired him to invite the entire Greek community to work on piecing together a massive one. He said, "I liked the idea of the challenge of building one of the biggest puzzles in the world. The fact that we could donate it was an even better feeling."

Mentz and his fraternity



A group of Greek student work on a section of the puzzle.

brothers, who helped lead the project, selected Joe DiMaggio's as the puzzle's recipient by unanimous vote.

Since the project's inception earlier this semester, it has grown to involve multiple sororities and fraternities, and even some non-Greek students. Participants have

helped by slowly piecing bits of the puzzle together.

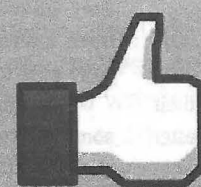
So far, according to Mentz, the puzzle is about "17 to 18 percent complete". He anticipates that it will be completed in November. The finished puzzle will be 10 feet by 6 feet and will display a variety of African animals at a watering

hole, including elephants, giraffes, hippopotamuses and birds.

Mentz said that the project's scope is far greater than its number of puzzle pieces, as it has brought many NSU students together to achieve a common goal.

COURTESY OF C. HOFFMAN

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# FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: BILL ADAMS

By: **Saily Regueiro**

Bill Adams grew up on a farm in Kentucky and developed a love for music, through playing the piano and singing in the church choir. Inspired by his mom, who taught college theater courses, Adams started acting in community theaters at the age of nine.

Adams is an associate professor and the coordinator of the Division of Performing and Visual Arts in the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences.

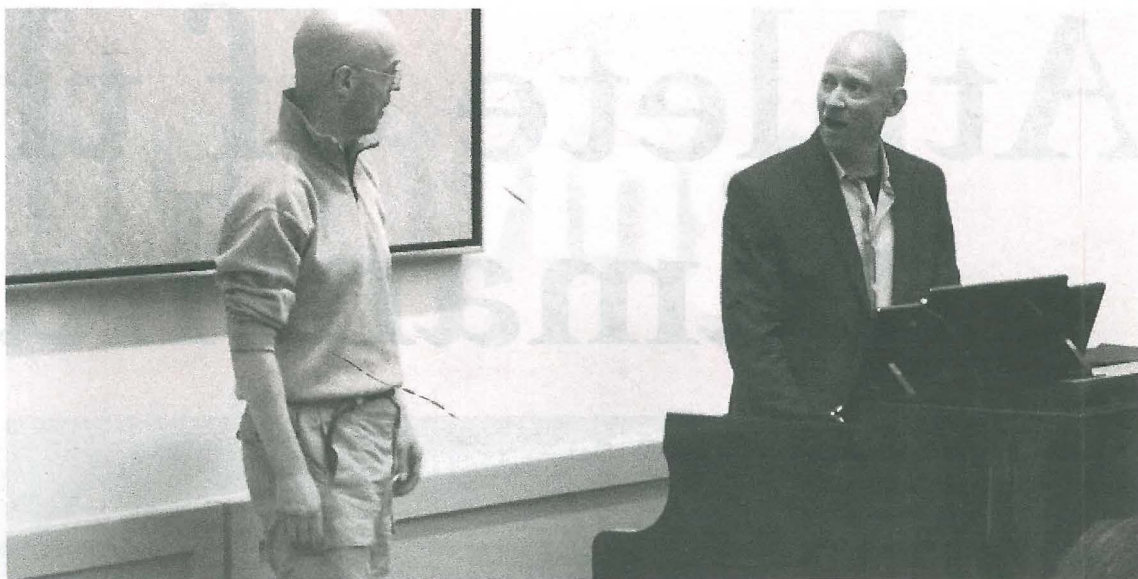
Before receiving his bachelor's and master's degrees in vocal performance from the University of Kentucky, Adams attended The University of Edinburgh in Scotland where he was intrigued by the

diverse culture and atmosphere.

"Studying American history with a Scottish professor was mind-blowing because they see what happened in history from a different perspective than we do," said Adams.

Once he saw how advanced the music students at Edinburgh were, Adams decided to go back home to continue studying music. After returning to the states and completing his master's degree, Adams decided to move to Orlando where he worked as a singing waiter at a restaurant and later performed with the Orlando Opera Company.

"Working at the singing restaurant was a good experience. I kept learning and it helped me



NSU professor Bill Adams teaching vocal skills to students at a conference in Austria

COURTESY OF B. ADAMS

make some good connections," said Adams.

Adams wanted to continue his education and decided to move to South Florida, where he attended the University of Miami and earned a doctorate in vocal performance. Once he graduated, Adams made the choice to move to New York City to pursue a career in theater. Besides having to go to countless auditions and deal with all the expenses of living in the big city, Adams eventually had the opportunity to perform in an opera and an original world premiere production based off of the poem "The Rape of The Lock" by Alexander Pope.

Adams said that aspiring performers have to learn that auditioning is just one part of getting a job — the rest is networking and being the right person for the position.

"Once you are at the audition,

it is your time to go and you just have to deliver. It's a crazy experience and it's different every day, but it's about finding something inside of you and knowing that it is what you are there to do," said Adams.

After later moving to Pittsburgh and working at universities there, he was offered the position at NSU and relocated back to South Florida.

Returning to the Sunshine State was wonderful for Adams — especially because, in his opinion, NSU had many exciting plans for its performing arts division.

"I started talking to people from NSU and was told about all the things planned for the arts. They planned on constructing a building and creating all the degree programs. It was exciting to get to come and be part of that," said Adams.

Adams has been at NSU for six years and teaches a variety of classes, including arts administration, vocal performance and musical theater — in which students are taught to communicate and adapt to any situation. Adams feels that the small classroom setting is great for students.

"Our students are very successful in finding their way in the business, largely because they are getting individual attention from faculty who are still in the business," said Adams.

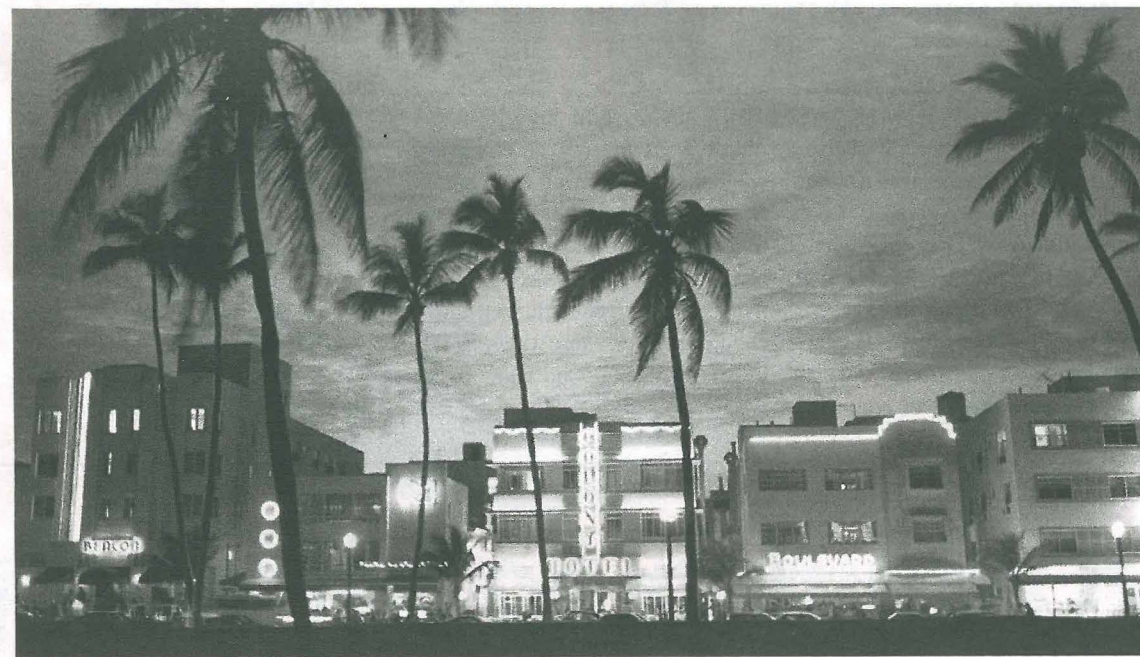
Adams also offers advice for students who aspire to study music, but are a bit weary of doing so.

"I understand the fear of having a music degree, but music gives great mental skills in theory and fundamentally in communications, so they should take the risk and try it," said Adams.

# Spring break beach reviews

By: **Faren Rajkumar**

With spring break swiftly approaching, one thing on many students' minds is the beach. South Florida is widely recognized as home to some of the world's most stunning beaches, many of which are driving distance of campus. Here are just some of the Sunshine State's beach spots for sun, sand and much more.



COURTESY OF WWW.INSIDEFLORIDA.COM

## Haulover Beach Park: Clothing optional

[hauloverbeach.org](http://hauloverbeach.org)

Nestled between the Intracoastal Waterway and the Atlantic Ocean, just north of Bal Harbour, Haulover Beach Park is a 0.4 mile stretch of white sand dunes and open ocean surf, popular with swimmers, surfers and sunbathers alike.

Haulover's claim to fame is its northern nude beach area, frequented by the majority of visitors. The nude beach is a small fraction of the park, so visitors hoping to avoid skinny-dippers can steer clear of the clearly-identified "clothing-optional" section.

Beachgoers who are comfortable showing off their skin should consult Haulover's "First-Timer's" guide — available on the beach's website — before baring all, as the beach has specific rules regarding photography, voyeurism and nudist etiquette. Chairs are available for rent, although park rules deem that all visitors must bring a towel.

## Fort Lauderdale Beach: Family friendly

[sunny.org](http://sunny.org)

Although this popular spot can be unbearably crowded on weekends and holidays, Fort Lauderdale Beach is a clean family hangout location. The wide expanse of soft sand is perfect for kid-friendly beach activities, such as picnicking, playing volleyball, sandcastle-building and the timeless practice of burying friends in the sand.

The shallow, clean water maintains a depth of approximately 5 feet for 25 yards out, which is great for wading and casual swimming. Snorkeling, scuba diving, jet-skiing, and deep-sea fishing are also encouraged in deeper waters.

A brick-paved sidewalk, open

to roller-blading and biking, spans the border of the entire beach, leading the way to many shops and restaurants.

## South Beach: Electric night life

[visitsouthbeachonline.com](http://visitsouthbeachonline.com)

A day spent at South Beach, a neighborhood of Miami Beach, can easily transition into a night of fun, as the stretch of surf and sand along South Pointe Park and Collins Avenue is lined by many iconic bars, clubs, restaurants and shops. South Beach, nicknamed SoBe, is known for its sophisticated atmosphere, due to the high volume of high-profile vacationers and guests of the area's boutique hotels.

The public beach's compacted sand is popular among runners, and

the view along breakwater is a scenic Miami cityscape.

Parking is generally limited, but there is a 1.6 mile path for rollerblading, biking and walking. Bike, scooter and Segway rentals are available at shops along Collins Avenue.

## Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park: Historic scenery

[floridastateparks.org/capeflorida](http://floridastateparks.org/capeflorida)  
Home of Miami-Dade's oldest structure, a lighthouse built in 1825, and the former site of a U.S. Army naval base, Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park in Key Biscayne is a scenic and historical beach that caters to photographers, nature-lovers and campers. Guided tours of the lighthouse and lighthouse keeper's cot-

tage are given twice daily, Thursday through Monday.

The grand seawall located along Biscayne Bay boasts some of the best shoreline fishing in the region, and rowers can also launch canoes and kayaks from No Name Harbor by the seawall. The waves are gentle, due to the coral reef located just six miles offshore, and over a mile of Atlantic beach is open to swimming — although the park does not have lifeguards on duty.

Nature and hiking trails on the west side of the park go through the mangrove wetlands, an iconic feature of Florida's landscape. Bikes, umbrellas, watercrafts and picnic pavilions can also be rented.

## Crandon Park: Close to Nature

[www.miamidade.gov/parks](http://www.miamidade.gov/parks)

On the island of Key Biscayne, Crandon Park is home to the Bear Cut Preserve and the Crandon Park Visitors and Nature Center. Its 264-acre natural barrier island habitat is open to guided tours and field trips, bird watching, canoeing, kayaking, snorkeling and biking. Kayaks, cabanas and shelters are available for rental.

The sandy beach and coastal dunes are nesting and feeding grounds for many migratory species, and the Center's exhibit room and aquariums provide insight into their lives and habitats. Short tram tours also take visitors on a historical journey across the island.

The entrance fee is \$5 per vehicle, and the guided tours and trams have individual prices.



# Athlete of the week: Samantha High

By: Chris Hoffman

Junior marketing major and graphic design minor Samantha High has been playing volleyball since she was in sixth grade. She grew up watching her older cousin play the sport. Then, after she attended a volleyball clinic tryout, High was hooked. Whether on the court or on the sideline, she is always cheering on her team.

During the 2012 season, the Naples, Fla. native played in a career-high number of sets, 80. Within those 80 sets, she accumulated a career best 128 kills — 13 more than the 2011 season. While the team may have struggled throughout the season, High set new personal bests in kills per set, digs and blocks.

As a sophomore, High played in 66 sets over the course of 22 games. She had a season best 15 kills in matches against conference rivals The Florida Institute of Technology and Rollins College. Her best games in blocks came when she scored four blocks against Midwestern State University. By season's end, High had racked up 115 kills, 22 digs and 12 blocks.

High's freshman year consisted of her playing in 22 matches, starting in four of them. The most amount of digs she had in one game was against Eckerd, when she collected four. She played her best game against fellow Sunshine State Conference member, Florida Southern College, during which she recorded 10 kills, 23 attacks and had a .389 hitting percentage. In total, she finished her freshman year with 46 kills and 14 blocks.

Before coming to NSU, High played volleyball for four years at Naples High School. She earned several awards and recognitions



Junior Samatha High is hopeful that the incoming freshman will give the Sharks the boost they need.

COURTESY OF NSU ATHLETICS

during her high school career, including player of the week and most improved player. She also served as team captain, was named to the All-County team. And Naples High wasn't her only team; she also played for the Naples Volleyball Association club.

I sat down with High and asked her a few questions:

**Why did you choose to come to**

**NSU?**

I always told myself that I didn't want to stay in Florida. I wanted to go far away from home. But when I came here on a visit, it was just like home. I love the beach. The weather was beautiful. And it was far enough, yet, close enough at the same time. I fell in love with the team when I met

them.

**What do you like the most about volleyball?**

The competition and the excitement. Being able to share that with 15 other girls on the team is a great feeling; it's almost like a sisterhood.

**What is the hardest part about**

**being a student-athlete?**

Managing your time. You have to be able to balance school, practice and conditioning. On top of that, you have to make time to study. It's always a question whether to study or to sleep.

**Going into your senior season, what are you looking forward to the most?**

I would like to go out with a bang. I'm ready to be a National Champion. We're bringing in a lot of really good players and I'm really excited to see what our team can do. The returners have such a big drive and I'm sure the ones coming in are going to be ready to go.

**Who is your favorite athlete?**

Misty May-Treanor because she's so dedicated. She had a child and tore her Achilles during "Dancing with the Stars" but she got back into it and never gave up.

**If you could have one superpower, what would it be?**

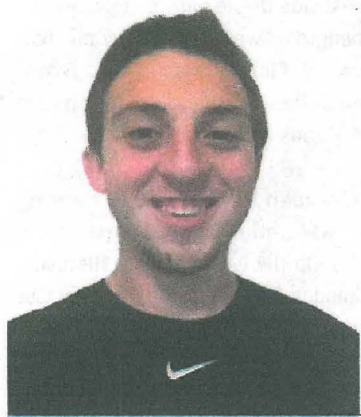
I would want to talk to animals because I love them. I would love to see what they were thinking, especially my dog.

**If you were an animal, what do you think you would be?**

I would be a zebra because the pattern on their bodies is ridiculous. They're fast and they stick up for each other.

**If you had an all-expenses paid trip, where would you want to go?**

I would go to Africa because I really want to go on a safari. I want to ride on a wild elephant and wear one of those cool safari hats.



## ON THE BENCH

Commentary by: Josh Streimer

Going into my third season as the NSU play-by-play broadcaster for baseball, I can say I have seen plenty of games at the Shark Tank. Following a poor performance in a series against Delta State University, I feel obligated to defend this team, who is really better than its record.

Can one bad series really diminish the hard earned reputation of the NSU baseball team? Many Division II baseball columnists and pollsters have given up faith in the team. The Sharks have gone

from a preseason top 25 team, to unranked, disrespected and an after thought by many baseball fans.

During their first ten games, the Sharks went 6-4 — the worst start to a season since Head Coach Greg Brown took over the job three years ago. But it doesn't matter how they start, it's all about how they finish.

What's encouraging is that the toughest part of the schedule is now behind the team. The Sharks will play 10 of their next 11 games

at home, against beatable opponents. Of those 11 games, Southern New Hampshire University is the only ranked team the Sharks will face.

Last April, West Chester University proved how one poor series doesn't have to ruin a team's season. These eventual national champion's lost a four-game series to a team that finished the season just above .500. Now I'm not going to say that NSU is going to go on and win the national championship, but

I will say that they are facing their adversity much earlier in the season than West Chester, which can only play in the Sharks favor.

The Sharks are far off from becoming the next West Chester, and they have some work to do if they hope to become an elite team. Before the team starts conference play in March, they will have to address their pitching, and hitting. The lack of consistency has, ultimately, lead to the team's subpar performance thus far.

If the team has any hopes of overcoming the defending champions, Tampa, for the Sunshine State Conference regular season championship, their pitching must become more consistent. The Sharks will look for some consistency from their ace, starting pitcher, Zach Westcott. Like the rest of the pitching staff Westcott has had his up and down moments this season. And while the pitchers have struggled this season, the

Sharks pitchers combined to go six and one third innings before conceding the first hit of the game. The talent is there, it just needs to be there more often.

Hitting has been another area of concern for the team. The Sharks are missing that one big power bat in the middle of their lineup. However, as long as the team averages close to seven runs per game they should manage to be just fine, big bat or not. From what I've seen it looks like the offense is just working off the rust, and with each at bat gets closer to reaching midseason form.

The Sharks have a talented and experienced team. The players have the desire and the skill set to become a prominent team in the conference once again. I look forward to watching them from the press box, as I have for the past two seasons.



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# Paralympian charged with premeditated murder

By: **Chris Hoffman**

Valentine's Day is usually a day filled with love, but for at least one family, it was filled with misery this year. South African Olympian Oscar Pistorious is accused of shooting and killing his girlfriend, Reeva Steenkamp, at his house in Pretoria, South Africa. This murder is truly devastating, especially since Pistorious has become a hero to so many people around the world.

Pistorious' rise to fame came this past summer at the 2012 London Olympic Games when he became the first double amputee to compete in an able-bodied Olympic event. He made it to the 400-meter semi-final and carried the South African flag at the closing ceremonies.

Pistorious claims that he heard an intruder in his bathroom, so he grabbed his gun and walked over to the bathroom, where he proceeded to fire four rounds into the door that enclosed the toilet. He claims that he took such action because he did not have on his prosthetic legs and felt vulnerable.

Prosecutors, however, are telling a much different story. They say that Pistorious got up, put on his prosthetics, grabbed his gun, went to the bathroom and then opened fire on the bathroom door, fully aware that Steenkamp was inside.

Detective Warrant Officer Hilton Botha of the South African Police

Service told the court that a witness claimed to have heard two people yelling inside Pistorious' home earlier that night. I'm not sure if I can believe Botha, since he has already been kicked off of the case as lead detective. On Feb. 21, he was relieved of his duties from the Pistorious case, because in 2011, he was accused of seven counts of attempted murder while on the job.

So far, forensic evidence has shown that three out of the four bullets hit Steenkamp — in her right elbow, right hip and in the head, over her right ear. The shots broke her arm and hip, and, ultimately, took away her life. The evidence also shows that the trajectory of the shots was from a high angle, aimed downwards — which does not correspond to Pistorious' claim that he did not have on his prosthetics. The prosecution believes, and I agree, that if he had the time and consciousness to put on his prosthetics, he would have been fully aware of the actions he was committing.

There are some other things that have not lined up with Pistorious' claim that he did not know Steenkamp was out of bed. Reports show that Pistorious was sleeping on the right side of the bed, but a 9 mm gun holster was found under the left side of the bed. If this is the case, then he would have had to notice that Steenkamp was not in the bed with him.

On Feb. 19, Pistorious was formally charged with premeditated murder.



South African double amputee Olympian is accused of murdering his girlfriend, Reeva Steenkamp.

COURTESY OF HOLLYWOODGOSSIP.COM

der. On Feb. 22, he was granted bond at 1 million South African rand, which is approximately \$112,800. Although some people believe that he is too dangerous to be on the street, I think that it is perfectly fine for him to be allowed bail; that's his right.

Throughout the bail hearing, more and more evidence has been coming out. As of Sunday, detectives have also found illegal .38 caliber bullets in Pistorious' home, along with sy-

ringes and what some people believe are steroids.

Barry Roux, Pistorious' lead defense lawyer and former police officer claims, "It is an herbal remedy. It is not a steroid and it is not a banned substance."

Obviously, I cannot say for sure if what they found are steroids or not, but with the amount of drug scandals circulating within the sports world recently, I would not be the least bit sur-

prised if the supposed "herbal remedy" ended up being an illegal substance.

Pistorious has definitely put himself in an unfavorable and difficult situation, but we should not forget about the accomplishments that he has achieved in his athletic career. Just like most cases of this magnitude, we will have to sit back and wait for the decision of what is shaping up to be an extremely long, slow trial.

## SPORTS SHORTS

WRITTEN BY  
**Chris Hoffman**



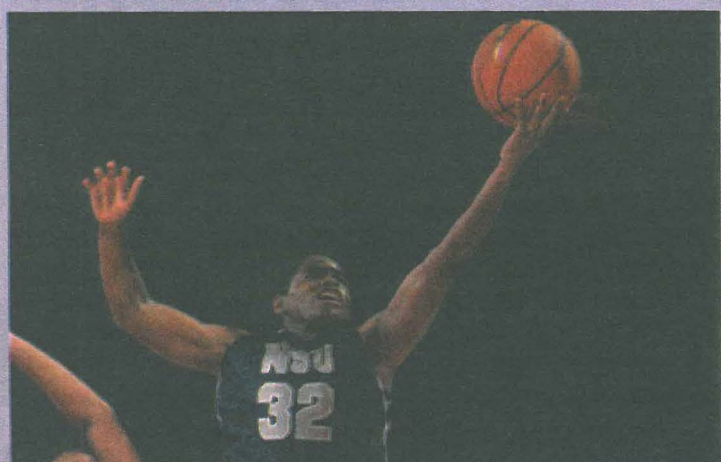
### SOFTBALL

The Sharks (9-8) opened up their home schedule this past weekend with a double header against the Lynn Fighting Knights at the AD Griffin Sports Complex.



### TENNIS

The number 16 NSU tennis team beat conference rival, Eckerd College, 7-2, for their second conference win of the season.



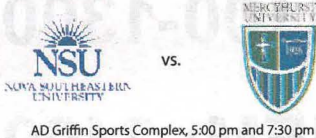
### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The women's basketball team (18-6) beat the Lynn University Fighting Knights this Saturday, 89-59. The win moves NSU into first place in the Sunshine State Conference.

## NSU On Deck Weekly Sports Schedule

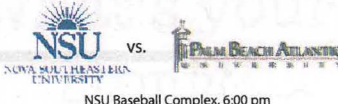
### Tuesday 2.26

#### Softball



AD Griffin Sports Complex, 5:00 pm and 7:30 pm

#### Baseball



NSU Baseball Complex, 6:00 pm

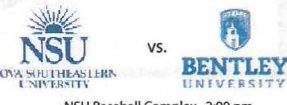
### Saturday 3.02

#### Softball



AD Griffin Sports Complex, 1:00 pm and 3:00 pm

#### Baseball



NSU Baseball Complex, 2:00 pm

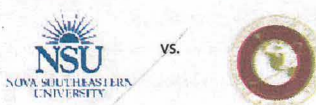
### Wednesday 2.27

#### Women's Tennis



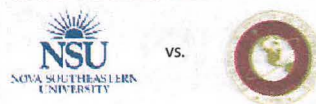
Miami shores, Fla. 2:00 pm

#### Women's Basketball



Melbourne, Fla. 5:30 pm

#### Men's Basketball



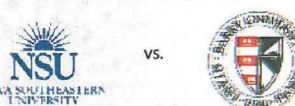
Melbourne, Fla. 7:30 pm

#### Men's Basketball



Miami shores, Fla. 5:30 pm

#### Women's Basketball



Miami shores, Fla. 7:30 pm

### Sunday 3.03

#### Baseball



NSU Baseball Complex, 2:00 pm

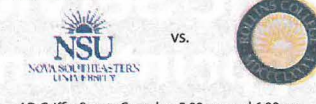
### Friday 3.01

#### Baseball



NSU Baseball Complex, 6:00 pm

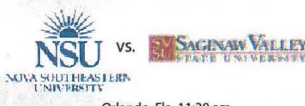
#### Softball



AD Griffin Sports Complex, 5:00 pm and 6:00 pm

### Monday 3.04

#### Women's Tennis



Orlando, Fla. 11:30 am

#### Men's Golf

NSU at St. Edwards Invitational

Austin, TX. All Day

#### Women's Golf

NSU at Peggy Kirk Bell Invitational

Winter Park, Fla., All Day



# In the still of the night

By: Louise Laurent

Ann Rule is an ex-law enforcement official who pens true crime books retelling criminal investigations from her standpoint. Her 2010 novel “In the Still of the Night: The Strange Death of Ronda Reynolds and Her Mother’s Unceasing Quest for the Truth” tells the true story of a mother’s journey to have the word “suicide” taken off of her daughter’s death certificate.

In December 1998, Ronda Reynolds’s body was discovered in her Toledo, Wash. home, with a gunshot wound to her head. However, the real mystery is whether or not her death was suicide.

This book offers a side of the story that may come off as biased at first, as the author clearly has her own thoughts on the victim’s manner of death. But what else can be expected? If there was no position taken, then the book would be a flavorless report on law enforcement incompetence and biases.

Investigators had presumptions

about the deceased from the very start of the case — not due to the visual evidence, but due to a verbal suggestion from a questionable source. The case was tainted and ego was placed in front of justice for a victim who had no defense other than her mother’s perseverance.

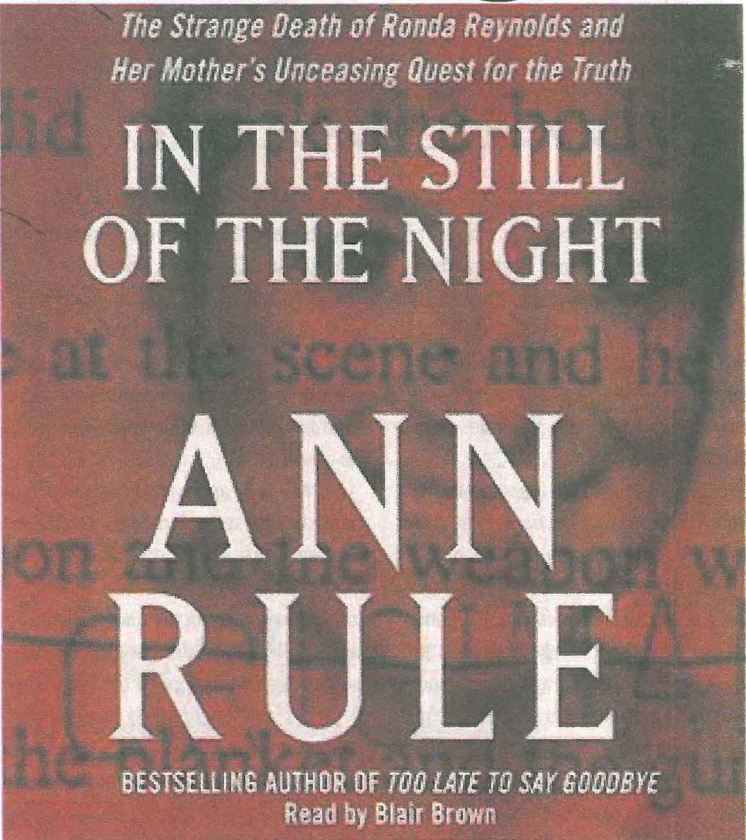
The focus is not simply on the fact that Ronda died. Rather, the entire novel paints one huge question, “Who done it?”, and unfolds the answer before the reader’s eyes. The resolution of the story — that is, the ruling on the death certificate — doesn’t lead to an ideal ending, but it does leave the reader with some sense of satisfaction.

A mother’s anger at the poor investigative work is vividly depicted by the author, and thus, felt by the reader. An investigator’s shock at how poorly the evidence was preserved becomes the reader’s outrage, because readers have no power to change it and are left mentally screaming at the actions of unsympathetic law enforcement officials.

This book does not wait for the reader to place his or her detective hat on; instead, it forces it on and straps it on tight, like a football helmet. The plot leaves the reader questioning not what evidence is missing, but where further investigation could lead. It implores the reader to join the mother’s fight for more answers.

Feel free to disagree with Rule’s suspicions as to who is the best suspect; she has cast her readers as the case’s jury. Could it be a financially desperate second husband, a hateful stepson, a clingy self-proclaimed best friend or the drug addicted ex-wife of the second husband? Can we trust every conversation that the deceased’s mother reports?

A bevy of questions can be formulated, but one cannot complain that the author hasn’t placed her readers in a perfect position to delve into the investigative world of a true tragedy.



COURTESY OF WWW.GOODREADS.COM  
Rule’s true crime book tells a chilling tale of suicide ... or was it actually a murder?

# An actor dreaming his dream in “Les Mis”

By: Jodi Tandet

“Les Misérables” loosely translates to “The Miserable Ones” in French. But for Cuban-American actor Andrew Varela, portraying the villainous Inspector Javert in the hit musical’s 25th anniversary national tour is anything but miserable. To use his own words, “It’s a gift.”

“When I go to work, people are clapping for me, clapping at me. I can hear the response from the audience, at every second,” Varela said. “So, if that can’t build you up, if that can’t lift you up on of the doldrums, then you have no soul.”

Along with a soul, Varela — like most of his cast mates — has years of musical theater experience, particularly with the show that he, and the show’s legion of devoted fans, fondly call “Les Mis.”

He was born in a city full of actors, Los Angeles, and soon embarked on his own international tour of sorts — living in Taiwan, The Philippines, New Jersey and even Miami. He made his Broadway debut in “King David” and joined “Les Mis” in 1997 as protagonist Jean Valjean, a role he eventually played over 300 times in Broadway and touring companies. Now once again a proud touring member, but with a twist — he’s playing Valjean’s nemesis — Varela has returned to Miami until March 3, with eight shows at the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts.

Thanks in part to “Les Mis”’s success as a movie, it currently has Hollywood’s — and perhaps the world’s — rapt attention. But finding a simple synopsis isn’t an easy task. No, its major theme isn’t Hugh Jackman’s smile, nor is its biggest plot twist Anne Hathaway’s haircut.

Varela described “Les Mis”, which is based on the 1862 novel of the same name by French poet and playwright Victor Hugo, as “the story of a man who is released from prison and is shown some kindness by a bishop. It’s the story of a man’s redemption. When he’s shown some kindness, he tries to better his life. But the world will not let him at times.”

“Les Mis” is now the longest running musical in the world and, much like several other highly successful shows — including “Evita”, “Cats” and “Miss Saigon”, it is a sung-through musical — meaning that no lines are spoken; everything is part of a song. But, you don’t have to go around belting out a jingle about midterms or hiring backup dancers for a number about your spring break plans to find meaning in the show’s universal themes.

“It has elements that everyone in the world can relate to, whether it’s grace or love or revolution or debauchery. It touches on every part of the human experience,” Varela said. “What’s interesting is that the show plays in foreign countries. In Shanghai, they still get it as much as they do in Miami. It still affects people the same way.”

Although the show transports its audience to early nineteenth century France, Varela thinks that “Les Mis” speaks to issues of 2013 America. Regardless of a viewer’s political beliefs, he or she can still relate to the characters’ passionate battle cries — or rather, emotional ballads — for their rights.

“While the time period is different, I think the notion of people standing up for themselves and asking for their freedom is something that never really dies,” he said.

Similarly, new life has been breathed into the show for this pro-



COURTESY OF D. MEER  
Andrew Varela as Inspector Javert in The New 25th Anniversary Production of “Les Misérables”

duction. According to Varela, the 25th national tour has “taken a whole new design approach using the technologies of today.”

High-definition projectors showcase images on the back wall, which Varela said “add an extra actor to the stage that’s never been there before.” And the projected images aren’t just any ‘ol artwork; they’re based off Victor Hugo’s paintings.

“The visuals that we have on stage are the visuals that Hugo had in his head when he was writing this. So, you get twice the Hugo for the price of one,” said Varela. “But the show itself has gone into a more realistic, a more verity style. It’s grittier, it’s dirtier and it’s beautiful.”

While Varela thinks that the film — of which the musical’s cast was treated to a private screening — was

also beautifully done, he said that the silver screen version takes a slightly different approach to the tale, “because they were able to tell certain aspects of the story more clearly that you could on stage.”

“If you liked the movie, you’re certainly going to like our production,” Varela said. “But the voices that you’re going to find in the show are theater voices. They’re more trained. We’re actually paid to do this. You’re going to hear the music in a new way ... We have some of the best voices on stage that I think you’re having going to come across.”

As for his film counterpart, Russell Crowe, Varela said, “Vocally, his challenges were different than mine. I’ve been doing this for two years now and I’ve had years of vocal training. The choices that I’m able to make as

an actor, based on the singing, are going to be different than his. So, he did his level best and I do mine.”

Although the show is far from a carefree comedy, like you might expect if its titled meant “The Joyous Ones”, Varela says that “Les Mis” features the “kind of sadness that leaves your heart lifted. It’s not just the puppy dies at the end.”

As this article comes to its end, Varela, perhaps demonstrating his flair for creativity and drama, suggested a way of wrapping it up.

He said, “If, on your deathbed, you want to see one piece of theater, make it ‘Les Mis.’ You won’t regret it. I think that’s the tag.”

If you’re dreaming a dream of seeing “Les Mis” on stage, visit arshntcenter.org or call the box office at 305-949-6722.



# “Novapool” project creates virtual dance company

By: **Faren Rajkumar**

NSU senior dance majors Shannon Colonna and Christal Yanez will present the “Novapool” dance project with students from the dance department of John Moores University — an institution in Liverpool, England — on March 1 at 10:30 a.m.

The fascinating aspect of this dance project is in its name: the students will perform simultaneously, but at their respective universities, NSU’s Davie campus and Liverpool, England. The performances will be simulcast on a split screen, creating a “virtual dance company” between two schools on opposite sides of the pond.

The directors of “Novapool”, Luke Kahlich, dance history adjunct professor at the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences, and Professor Pauline Brooks of John Moores University, view this endeavor as an experiment with technology and dance.

According to Elana Lanczi, chair of NSU’s dance program, Kahlich and Brooks developed the project five years ago, while Kahlich was a professor in the dance program at Temple University in Philadelphia.

“[Kahlich] was actually my professor while at Temple, and he has al-

ways been interested in dance and technology,” said Lanczi.

Kahlich, who began his work with computers and dance in 1984 and taught a course on the subject, left Temple in 2012, but was able to continue his research with telematics and the arts at NSU.

“My colleague and I have experimented with several models over the last five years, but found that the most successful one was one of collaboration between instructor and students,” said Kahlich. “For this project, Professor Brooks and I dropped the idea into the pond and encouraged students to develop it further.”

Yanez and Colonna have been connecting online with the Liverpool dancers every Friday morning to rehearse.

Yanez said, “It was interesting to experience dance with people who live so far away and not being able to have physical contact.”

According to Yanez, technological issues, such as delays in time, had to be overcome. This project provides an opportunity for instructors, students and audiences to work through the perceptive challenges that technology often creates.

Kahlich said, “It has been a great adventure, both in creating dance and learning technology and its possibilities and limitations.”

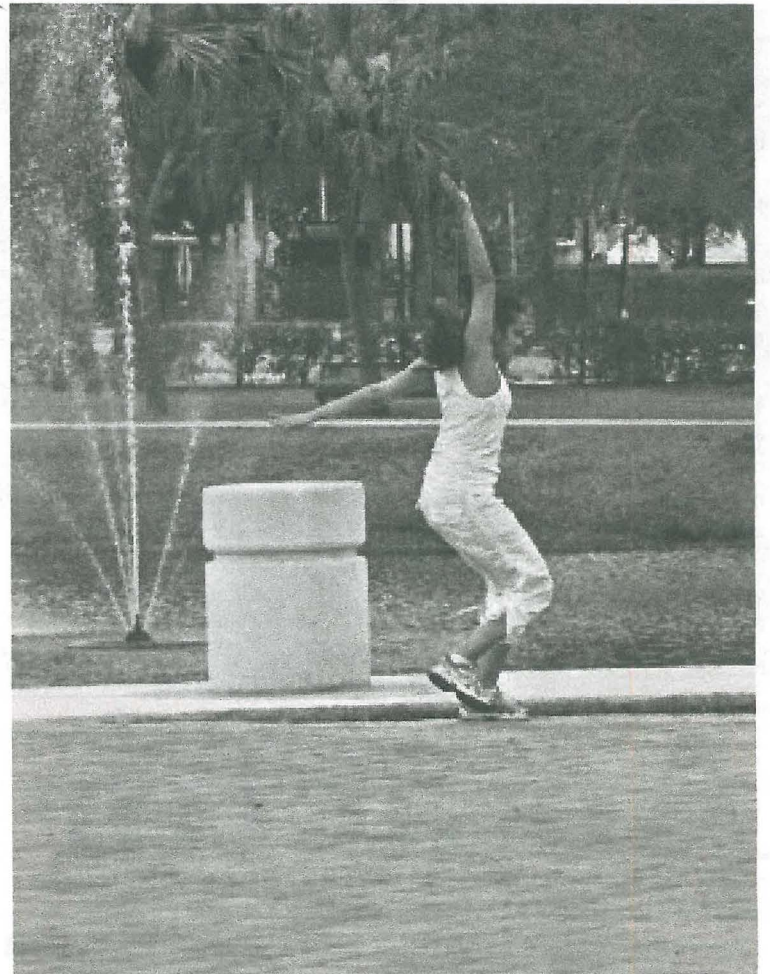
The four students in Liverpool — Charlotte Fong, Blaine Greene, Sarah Middleton and Rachel Woolaston — are also dance majors. Brooks hopes that the project will create a sense of community between the participating students.

“From this pilot, we hope to cement stronger international relationships between our two universities,” said Brooks.

After the performance, there will be an open discussion between the audience and the live and virtual dancers.

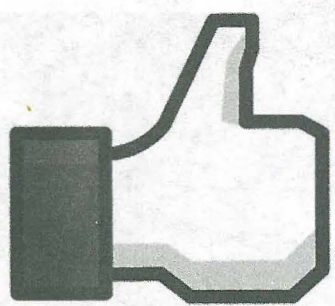
Kahlich said, “We hope that many people will attend, and also be open about their reactions to this mutual journey.”

The performance and discussion will be in the Don Taft University Center Performance Theater. Admission is free, and open to NSU students, faculty, staff and members of the community. Following the performance, there will be a discussion about the “Novapool” dance project. For more information, contact Elana Lanczi at 954-262-7613.



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With the aid of a simulcast, dancers at NSU will perform simultaneously with dancers in Liverpool, England.



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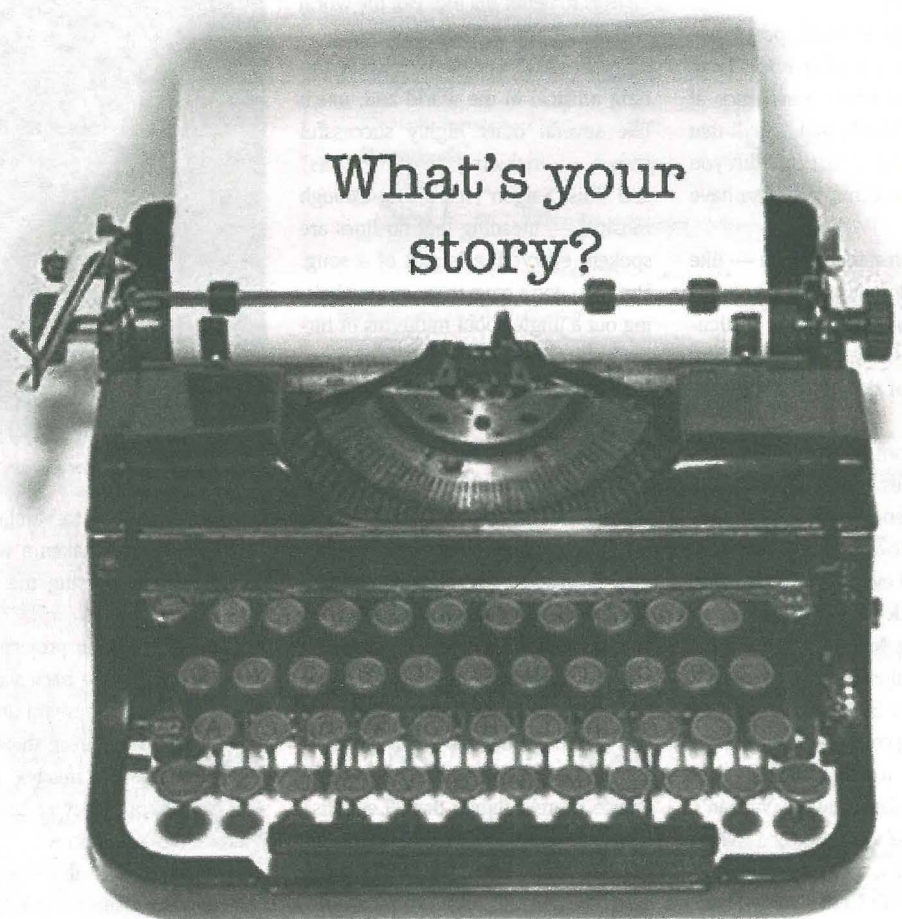
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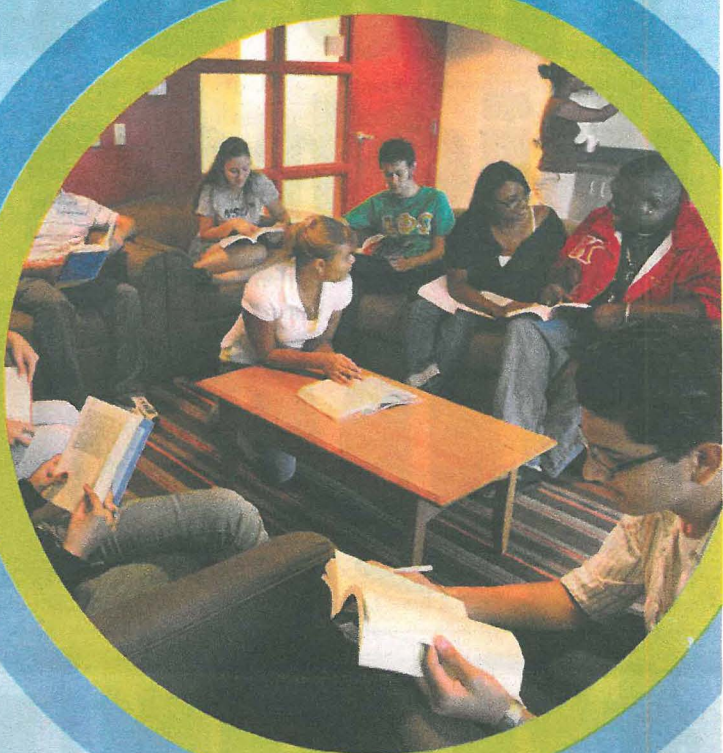
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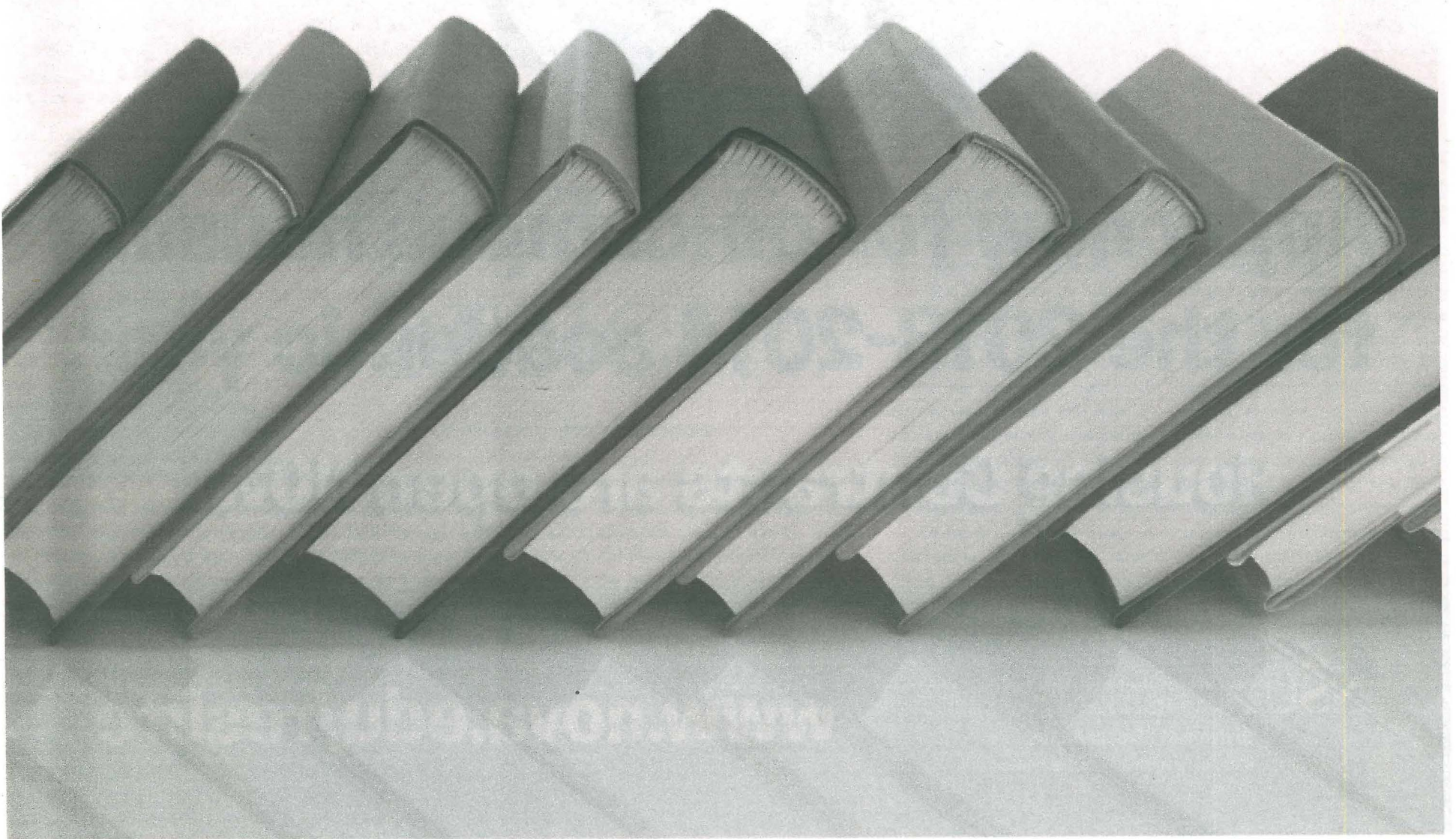
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good luck on  
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# Spring break isn't just about beaches and beer

By: **Andre Jensen**

It's been said that knowledge is power. Well, what is more powerful than spending a week you would normally use to do silly or unproductive things, helping and serving your community, your country or the world?

Spring break is a time to wind down, forget about classes and homework, and just have fun. But you can also make it a time to reach out and do good for the local community and the world, while forming amazing relationships and experiencing life outside your usual comfort zone.

"Alternative" spring breaks are not a new idea, but in recent years, they have become more and more popular with college students. Alternative spring breaks provide an essential service to participants, by allowing them to engage in volunteer service in their local community or abroad.

Spring break volunteer projects often focus on a particular issue, such as poverty, education, child development, refugee resettlement, the environment or disaster relief. Students typically learn about social issues and then perform week-long projects with nonprofit organizations.



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Students help install water pipes on an Indian reservation during an alternative spring break.

At NSU, several student organizations — like Alpha Phi Omega, SISTUHS and Community Action Using Student Empowerment, and academic departments — like the Health Professions Division and the H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship, in association with the Graduate Business Students Association, plan an alternative spring break each year.

A particularly notable alternative spring break was in 2010, when several student groups worked together to organize a massive relief trip to Haiti after the devastating earthquake. The trip was covered by local media outlets, including NBC Miami and the Sun Sentinel.

The support of university faculty, staff and administrators, along with student organizations, are essen-

tial to the growth of alternative spring break projects. Community service is a vital part of a well-rounded education.

Options for spring break alternatives include home building projects, turtle conservation efforts, and teaching opportunities in Central American conservations. The United Way also sponsors alternative spring breaks, and non-profit house builders like

Habitat for Humanity have seen an increase in student volunteerism within the past few years.

Projects Abroad, one of the largest volunteer programs in the nation, now offers short-term volunteering opportunities, specifically designed for one-week spring break trips. Participants can propose and plan their own ideas for alternative spring breaks.

Details on these projects and others should be promoted to as many students as possible at NSU. Student groups, like the Student Events and Activities Board, have already formed relationships with many community service organizations, like Big Brothers Big Sisters and The Salvation Army. These relationships should be encouraged and expanded to other groups.

Alternative spring breaks educate volunteers in the hope that these students will go home and fundraise or raise awareness about the problems they witnessed firsthand. They are important for a complete education, because they offer students an opportunity to contribute to the local or global community in ways that they might not have before.

## Vacation fantasies becoming staycation realities

By: **Marrissa Dybas**

When many people fantasize about spring break, they imagine what is depicted in movies — elaborate trips to destinations like Cancun and Key West and excursions to encounter love at first sight with a sun-drenched surfer boy or girl. Many kids grow up looking forward to what could be a highlight of their high school or college years, but wind up getting their dreams crushed because spring break trips like these are completely unrealistic.

Not too many college students can afford these sorts of trips and usually end up spending their spring breaks at home. I don't even know anyone who's going away for spring break. Now with the movie "Spring Breakers" coming soon, and the airing of "MTV Spring Break" just around the corner, I may throw my TV out the window if I see any more

of this glamorized idea of being swept off my feet on a white, sandy beach — especially if I can't even afford the plane ticket.

First, consider why you need to go far away for spring break. How much do people really need to have a great spring break? All you need is a beach and friends, and the good times should unfold just right. You have your friends and South Florida has a ton of beaches. Plus, some of us have friends who live on the beach or the Intracoastal. They may have a boat and you can spend time together on the water.

If you don't want to spend a whole week at the beach, South Florida has a lot of lively fun places to go to, like Las Olas, Beach Place, Lincoln Road, Downtown Delray and Wynmoor Design District. As a South Florida native, I often get tired of the same beaches and other attractions. It's not uncommon to think



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Teenage girls spend spring break not far from home.

that one could be spending their vacation somewhere better. But many students at other universities or natives of other states are chomping at the bit to go to Fort Lauderdale and Miami. While South Florida does not present any novelty to us at NSU, it's important to appreciate what's around us. We are lucky to be able to say that we live or attend school in a popular vacation spot. We can make the most of spring break without driving eight hours straight or flying out of the country.

In addition, think about how much money can be saved by staying in South Florida this spring break. Spring break comes with an extremely expensive price tag. There are the essential costs for airfare or gas money — depending on method of travel, plus fees for additional transportation, the hotel and food. But, sometimes, it doesn't

stop there. Maybe, if you are the water sports type, you may want to rent equipment like waterskis or parasails. You may also want to buy a swimsuit or some kind of souvenir — especially if there are local artisan shops. According to current hotel and airline prices, along with the average costs of recreational activities and restaurant prices, the total adds up to about \$1,000 as a minimum amount for a week.

There are ways to save, but, sometimes what travelers choose to save money on is really what should be an important vacation investment. For example, decent hotel rooms often cost around \$250 a night. Usually the only way to get good housing is to rent a small house and split the cost with a large group of 10 or more people. Otherwise, you may wind up in a shack filled with roaches and bad plumbing.

On many of my spring breaks,

I haven't stayed home, but I haven't traveled far. I've gone to what I fondly call "Camp Glass". No, this is not a summer camp. I've spent most of the week with some of my friends, and all of us have stayed at the house of our best friend, whose last name is Glass, for a few days. We spent a lot of time on his boat wake-boarding, tubing and just hanging out. Then, when we weren't in the mood for that, we would all go out somewhere at night or stay home to watch movies or play Wii in a room Glass's family has with movie theater chairs and speakers.

With all of the activities South Florida has to offer, perhaps create your own "Camp Glass" and have all the adventures and shenanigans of spring break in the comforts of a friend's home. It may not be like MTV's version of spring break, but you'll have a wonderful time.



# Commuter students finally get a little respect

By: Andre Jensen

Commuter Appreciation Day, a two-hour informational event held on Feb. 20 to address the needs of commuter students and introduce them to campus resources, has come and gone. My hope is that the focus on commuter student issues isn't just relegated to one day, but is always on the minds of NSU's administrators.

College can already be extremely difficult for many students, without the added difficulties of commuting to and from school in a metropolitan area like South Florida. Commuter students often feel at a disadvantage when it comes to getting involved in campus activities and building a social network at school. Opportunities for interactions with fellow students are sometimes limited to the classroom and passing glances or waves in the parking lot.

To address this, NSU added commuter student involvement to the responsibilities of the formerly named Office of Orientation, now called the Office of Orientation and Commuter Student Involvement. This is a good first step, on the part of administration and hopefully more will follow.

The office aims to deepen commuter students' connection to campus. It also provides services and support to these students, including assistance with carpooling, information about where to find the cheapest gas in town, and bus and Tri-Rail schedules.

Commuter students interested in getting involved in campus activities can

make connections to their Commuter Student Representative of the Undergraduate Student Government Association, and join the Commuter Student Organization, through the Office of Orientation and Commuter Student Involvement.

As a commuter student, I travel a great distance back and forth from school, and getting involved can sometimes be inconvenient; I'm not on campus during important events, programs or activities.

For those students who attend classes only in the evening, like I once did, their alienation from daily campus life often goes unnoticed, as they remain unaware of all that NSU has to offer — including sports, activities and student organizations.

My expectation is that the Office of Orientation and Commuter Student Involvement will continue to make college life just a little easier for those who drive to campus every weekday. That is why the Office of Orientation and Commuter Student Involvement's mission must be about reaching out to commuter students of all ages and interests. NSU is not a traditional four-year institution, like Florida State University or the University of Florida, whose great majority of students specifically relocate to attend those universities. The majority of students at NSU, including those in graduate programs, commute to campus.

Special attention must be focused on the issues that affect commuter students. With rising gas prices, highway construction and a limited number of parking spaces available, the obstacles that these students face can be challenging.



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## On the Scene: What was your experience like at the NSU job fair?



"I thought they did a great job, but I wish they had more things for counseling. Talking to the staff, they said there aren't really that many opportunities for counseling majors. Otherwise, it was very good and organized.." **Candace Williams, junior psychology major**



"There weren't many companies there, and some companies had left early before I got there. A few didn't even show up. For example, I was supposed to talk to a certain company at a table and it turned out it was not the company I was supposed to talk to, because they didn't show up. So I ended up giving my resume to some random person." **Alfonse Hanon, senior business administration major**



"I have a passion for cars and there was an automotive group there — all types of cars, especially sports cars. So that might have been a good position for me. Mass Mutual was there and they provide internship opportunities. I like helping people have a financially secure future; that's also been my passion. Overall, I think it was a good experience." **Ahadad Jafri, senior accounting major**

"The experience was amazing. It's basically about trying to be yourself and impressing the person in front of you. I went to the Canon Medical Dental Clinic and I got to present myself ... I asked them questions about what internships they offer, what are they looking for and how can I improve myself. It was a really nice thing to do, just to get myself out there and the networking process. You want to have those connections around school; it's what makes you special from other students." **Reya Hossian, sophomore biology major**



"I didn't like that you have to apply online. I don't understand why they are there and we have to apply online. I did speak to some new companies that I never heard of before; I guess that was helpful." **Elianny Vera, second-year MBA student**



"I made a lot of connections. City Furniture wanted to interview me, as well as Northwestern Mutual, who wanted to interview me at their office. So, I'm excited." **Mike Thatcher, first-year MBA student**



# Frustration at the internship and job fair

By: **Mnena Iyorpoo**

NSU does a wonderful job of preparing students for life after graduation. Renowned professors, who have vast experiences in their respective fields, provide students with an excellent education. Combined with state-of-the-art facilities, the university clearly aims to give students all the tools necessary to succeed in a highly competitive global market.

One amazing opportunity that NSU has for students is an internship and job fair, for which the Office of Career Development invites many employers to campus to recruit students for internships and jobs. This, no doubt, can be a valuable opportunity for some alumni and students – undergraduate and graduate, domestic and international — to learn more about organizations and companies they're interested in and, possibly, be hired for temporary or permanent positions.

I, however, was highly disappointed when I attended the internship and job fair on Feb. 19. I am an international graduate student, and I decided to attend the fair to see what opportunities might be open to me. I was shocked by the responses I received from the representatives of most of the organizations I was interested in; I was told that only permanent residents and U.S. citizens were eligible.

I found it mind-boggling, because if, as international students, we come to the U.S. and pay to get educated, shouldn't we be given an opportunity to put the skills we're taught into real practice outside the four walls of a classroom?

I recognize that many U.S. employers offer amazing internships or even full-time positions to international students. As such, my frustration stems from the particular representatives whom I approached at the fair.

As an international student who has been in this country for about five years, I fully understand the process, along with all the requirements and limitations of obtaining employment in the U.S. as a non-citizen. So, it isn't as if I went to the job fair blindly expecting that I would receive the same treatment as a citizen or permanent resident.

I think that it would be extremely helpful if the Office of Career Development would clearly specify which organizations and companies consider international students in the list that they hand out at the fair's entrance. International students would then know which tables to approach. I know that the office includes all that information on its website, as well as in the packet emailed to students. My problem with this, however, is that if you don't print it out or have a photographic memory to remember which employers to approach, you're just left to walk up to whichever appeals to you and likely be told that there are no opportunities for international students.

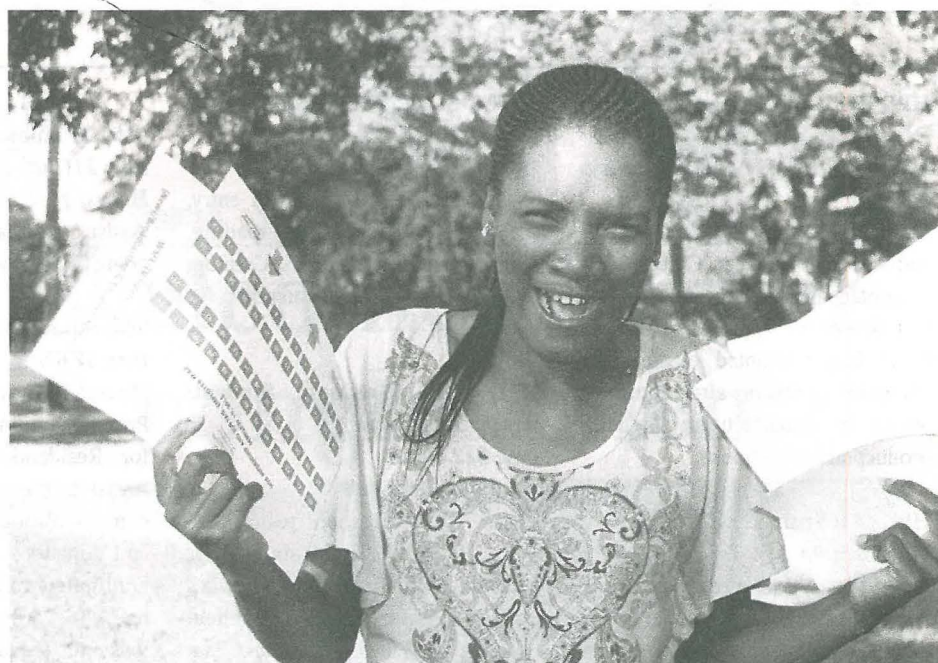
I also suggest that the Office of Career Development advises the organizations and companies attending to send representatives who are knowledgeable about the process of hiring international students, because, clearly, some of the people I spoke with had no idea what they were talking about.

I had specifically asked one representative if I would be able to intern or volunteer if I had my employment authorization document (EAD), and he said no, because even volunteers are paid. So, I was ineligible.

Clearly, this representative had no idea what he was talking about. An EAD is a work permit that allows eligible non-immigrants to work in the U.S. at any organization for the duration of one year, after which he or she can reapply for another work permit, if he or she is still eligible.

It is my opinion that employers who attend the fair needed to do a better job at educating their representatives on responding to international student employment questions. They should have realized that they were coming to a university that has a large population of international students, and, as such, expected that these students would be at the fair asking questions and seeking opportunities.

I don't think it puts the organization in a good light when their representatives don't know how to respond to some important questions. I would rather have someone tell me flat-out, "I really don't know how that works"



Mnena Iyorpoo lets out her aggravation after the job fair.

TAKEN BY A. JENSEN

than to just say, "We don't accept international students." I actually had one representative tell me that he didn't know, and I greatly appreciated that.

I would echo again that the Office of Career Development does a tremendous job of working with students and providing them with opportunities to succeed professionally after graduation. I would definitely encourage its staff to continue because their efforts are

undoubtedly helpful to students.

That being said, I propose that they find a way of making this process more inclusive of all students, possibly by inviting more organizations and companies that are willing to offer international students, like me, opportunities to practice what we're taught here. I can't speak for other international students, but I really felt out of place and frustrated at the job fair.

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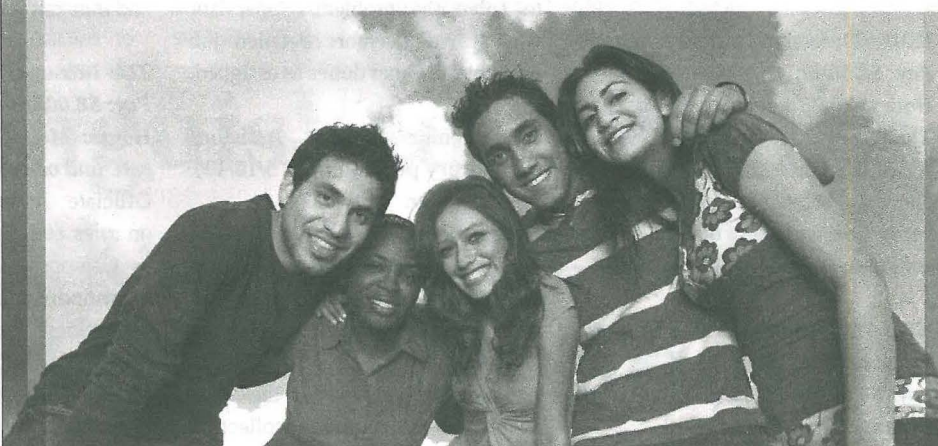
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# Help Wanted

*All students should contact the Office of Student Employment located on the first floor of the Horvitz building to apply for these positions (954.262.3380)*



**HPD 034: Contact Lens Assistant**  
**Pay: \$10.00/hr.**

**Hours: 10-15 hrs./week; Saturdays 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.**

Maintain diagnostic lens inventory and saleable products. Call patients as contact lens orders are received, sort lenses in appropriate storage trays. Log warranted credit using computer software after returning lenses to manufacturer; organize product and price books.

**HPD 144: Senior Student Assistant**  
**Pay: \$8.50/hr**

**Hours: 20-25 hrs./week maximum**  
Assist in various clerical duties that include typing, use of computer and/or M.S. Office programs. Other duties as assigned.

**HPD 148: Web Designer/Developer**  
**Pay: \$9.00/hr.**

**Hours: 10 hrs./week, 20 weeks for the year**

Maintain and provide ongoing design and updates of website content and structure, while meeting requirements provided by management.

**HPD 158: Student Assistant/Office Assistant**

**Pay: \$8.00/hr.**

**Hours: 20 hrs./week**

Typing correspondence, collecting and distributing mail, photocopying, answering phone, meeting and greeting student and visitors.

**HPD 177: Senior Student Assistant**  
**Pay: \$8.50/hr.**

**Hours: 20-25 hours/week, Tue and Thur**

Assist front desk staff to file, answer phones, schedule appointments, verify insurances and other duties as assigned. Training will be provided.

**HPD 196: Administrative Student Assistant**

**Pay: \$9.00/hr.**

**Hours: 25 hrs./week**

Data entry, design promotional materials. Write articles for newsletters. Act as student ambassadors in IDEP strategy sessions. Assist in generating training materials.

**HPD 208: Graduate Student Assistant**

**Pay: \$10.00/hr.**

**Hours: 10 hrs./week (Fall 2012 term)**

Prepare a short report on each of the community sites used in each of the Public Health and Community Health Projects over the past three (3) years.

**HPD 212: Graduate Student Assistant**

**Pay: \$12.00/hr.**

**Hours: 10 hrs./week**

Support OICB A11 A's formative and summative evaluation through survey administration, data analysis and program summaries.

**HPD 215: Student Assistant**

**Pay: \$8.50/hr**

**Hours: 20 hrs./week**

Typing correspondence, data entry, scanning, faxing, filing, mailing. Assist other staff members. Creating letters, arranging documents for meetings.

**HPD 219: Graduate Student/Research Assistant**

**Pay: \$12.00/hr.**

**Hours: 20 hrs./week**

Assist the evaluation team with TOUCH Early Childcare Center Nutrition Policies and Practices initiative. Assist in and perform field observations, data collection, data entry, and related research activities.

**1015: Student Intern - Clinical Information Systems**

**Pay: \$20.00/hr.**

**Hours: 20 hrs./week**

Assist with the coordination and performance of analysis, design, development and QA testing; validation and implementation of clinical systems used by providers, residents, and students. Assist in modifications to clinical systems through concurrent interactions with physicians, providers, residents, and students. Assist with the day to day support of the systems users. Provide user support by communicating with users in a prompt, courteous, professional manner; evaluating problems in a timely manner and collecting all information required to solve the problem. Supervisor will provide a more detailed job description. Other duties as assigned.

**040: Senior Student Assistant (temporary position until 5/10/13)**  
**Pay: \$9.00/hr.**

**Hours: 20 hrs./week**

Assisting individual library users at the reference desk with computer and printing issues. Helping disabled students use the library services. Responsible for the basic upkeep of the reference collection including shelving/shifting/shelf-reading. Routine maintenance of the bibliographies and instructional handouts for reference services. Process reference service book selections and check-in reference materials. Other assignments as needed.

**047: Student Assistant/Audio-Visual Services**

**Pay: \$10.00/hr.**

**Hours: 15-20 hrs./week**

Provide assistance in all aspects of Audio-visual technology, including working as an audio-visual assistant and providing excellent customer service to students, faculty, employees and guests.

**054: Lab Monitor**

**Pay: \$8.00/hr.**

**Hours: Up to 20 hrs./week**

Assist students & faculty with computer related problems in the microcomputer lab.

**086: Graduate Student Assistant**  
**Pay: \$11/hr.**

**Hours: 15-25 hrs./week**

Assist coordinator with various ongoing projects within the department.

**098: Student Assistant**  
**Pay: \$7.67/hr**

**Hours: 20 hrs./week**

Provide administrative support for Residential Life & Housing. Assist in the general operation and communication of office procedures and functions. Duties include but not limited to: inputting information on work orders, incident reports, locksmith request, etc. Filing and copying of confidential documents. Maintaining and organizing kitchen and storage rooms, and other common areas. Correspond with other NSU departments as required to assist residents or staff members. Other duties as assigned.

**114: Visual Design Assistant**  
**Pay: \$8.50/hr**

**Hours: 20 hrs./week, some evening & weekend hours required**

Responsible for the layout of the University-run newspaper. Job functions include but not limited to laying out stories and pictures. Ensure that all photos and graphics used in layout are edited to the correct file and color format and are placed with the appropriate story. Ensure that the final copy of the publication is saved in PDF format and transmit it to the printer.

**224: Intramural Sports Official**  
**Pay: \$8.00/hr.**

**Hours: Mon -Thur 5:30 p.m. - 11 p.m. and occasional weekends**

Officiate intramural sports based on rules and regulations as set forth by Campus Recreation. Ensure that teams/individuals follow rules and regulations. Provide all intramural participants with superior customer service. Remain visible and on post at all times.

**374: Field Operations Assistant**  
**Pay: \$8.00/hr**

**Hours: 20 hrs./week**

Assist the Operations Coordinator by ensuring fields and facilities are prepared for home games and events. Act as a troubleshooter at events by providing supervision. Also assist with game management.

**500: Phonathon Worker**  
**Pay: \$9.00/hr.**

**Hours: 10-15 hrs.**

**5:30 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.**

**Mon-Fri, End of August-December**

Call alumni from all over the country to update their information. Let our alumni know about new developments at NSU and ask for support of NSU through our annual giving program.

**607: Business Manager**  
**Pay: \$10.50/hr.**

**Hours: 20 hrs./week**

Solicit local businesses to participate in underwriting. Arrange remotes and disc jockey services for events in the community and on campus. Maintain records of all agreements with underwriters. Work with Program Director and Production engineer to ensure all announcements are aired for the stipulated amount of time and conform to all contractual arrangements. Work with Public Relations Director in station promotions. Maintain regular contact with all underwriters and sponsors. Other duties as assigned.

**634: Sr. Student Assistant**  
**Pay: \$8.50/hr.**

**Hours: 20 hrs./week**

Shelve all Juvenile, Young Adult and AV/Popular Library materials. Maintain orderliness of department by collecting and re-shelving materials used by patrons. Maintain log of items re-shelved from daily pickups. Assist in the cleaning, repair and labeling of library materials. Office support duties as needed; other duties as required.

**679: Senior Student Assistant**  
**Pay: \$9.00/hr.**

**Hours: 25 hours per week**

Provide clerical support and administrative assistance to the various administrators.

**711: Student Scholarship Assistant**  
**Pay: \$9.00-\$12.00/hr.**

**Hours: 20 hrs./week**

Update and maintain database, review, edit and write scholarship questions, assist in mailings both electronic and paper, assist in preparing presentations, provide support in developing and delivering online scholarships.

**730: Student Assistant/ASA Desk Attendant**

**Pay: \$7.67/hr.**

**Hours: 20-25 hours/week**

Greet and relate to all visitors. Direct NSU students, visitors and employees to various NSU departments for assistance as appropriate. Manage the designated phone line and online reservation forms for the Shark Shuttle Airport program, send out confirmation emails and make confirmation phone calls 24 hours after receiving requests. Direct traffic to the appropriate departments. Schedule, set-up and maintain meeting rooms and patio area. Daily light maintenance of reception and meeting room areas. More detailed description and other duties to be provided from department. Other duties as assigned.

**749: Student Assistant/Undergraduate**  
**Pay: \$10.00/hr.**

**Hours: 20 hrs./week**

Administrative and clerical duties such as processing check requests, making travel arrangements (including auto, airline and hotel). Assist in arrangement of

conferences, meetings, etc. and arranging technology requirements. Schedule appointments and maintain project calendars. Respond to emails and handle telephone requests; taking and recording messages accurately and reliably. Gather and compile information for special reports as requested. Scanning and data entry. Other duties as assigned.

**764: Senior Student Assistant/Storage Room Clerk**

**Pay: \$10.00/hr.**

**Hours: 25 hrs./week**

Pick up and receive all scrap materials for the storage/scrap room. Scan all materials into the appropriate spreadsheet and separate recyclable assets for donation from scrap items. Assist management team with daily operations. Maintain clean and safe work environment.

**781: Operations Assistant/Fitness**  
**Pay: \$7.67/hr.**

**Available Hours: Mon-Fri 5:30 a.m. - Midnight / Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. / Sunday 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

Promote and enforce all fitness room policies. Ensure a safe work-out environment and perform routine cleaning and maintenance on equipment. Be visible on the fitness room floor during shift, to answer questions and provide general assistance.

**796: Student Assistant/Event Services**

**Pay: \$8.00/hr.**

**Hours: 5-20 hrs./wk. May include evenings and weekends, depending on events.**

Jobs include Guest Services, Ticket Takers, Ushers, Ticket Sellers and other various event services and box office jobs.

**866: Water Safety Instructor (Swim Instructor)**

**Pay: \$11/hr.**

**Hours: 20-25 hrs./week (Saturdays and Sundays required)**

Responsible for planning and teaching group and private swim lessons as well as Camp Nova swim lessons.

**875: Student Assistant**  
**Pay: \$9.00/hr.**

**Hours: 15-20 hrs./week**

Provide writing and research support. Input information on specific web site. Write news releases, media alerts and other writing assignments as requested by staff for external and internal communication vehicles. Conduct research using library databases, Internet, etc. Assist in compiling news clippings from newspapers, media websites, and blogs as needed. Take digital photos when needed and assist in organizing photo files. Compile press kits and/or President's kits when needed. Department will provide more detailed job description.